

SAFETY OFFICER (NQS)

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| RESOURCE CATEGORY | Incident Management |
| RESOURCE KIND | Personnel |
| OVERALL FUNCTION | The Safety Officer monitors incident operations and advises the Incident Commander (IC) or Unified Command on all matters relating to operational safety, including the health and safety of incident personnel. |
| COMPOSITION AND ORDERING SPECIFICATIONS | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. This position can be ordered as a single resource or in conjunction with a NIMS typed team (Incident Management Team). 2. Discuss logistics for deploying this position, such as working conditions, length of deployment, security, lodging, transportation and meals, prior to deployment. 3. Requestor specifies any additional qualifications necessary, based on incident complexity and needs. |

Each type of resource builds on the qualifications of the type below it. For example, Type 1 qualifications include the qualifications in Type 2, plus an increase in capability. Type 1 is the highest qualification level.

| COMPONENT | TYPE 1 | TYPE 2 | TYPE 3 | NOTES |
|--------------------|----------------|--|---|---------------|
| DESCRIPTION | Same as Type 2 | Same as Type 3, PLUS: Develops and implements a transition plan based on escalating incident complexity | <p>The Safety Officer:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identifies incident-related hazardous situations 2. Identifies actions to mitigate risks and hazards with the greatest potential for serious accident or injury 3. Ensures the safety, welfare and accountability of assigned incident personnel 4. Exercises emergency authority to stop unsafe actions at any time 5. Investigates, or coordinates the investigation of, accidents occurring within the incident area 6. Conducts safety analyses and prepares reports on all incident facilities and locations, as necessary; communicates safety issues or concerns to incident personnel at shift briefings 7. Determines the need for subject matter experts or technical specialists to advise on or oversee unique safety issues or hazards, such as confined space, hazardous materials (HAZMAT), infectious diseases and so on 8. Assigns and oversees Assistant Safety Officers, technical specialists and subject matter experts, as necessary | Not Specified |

Position Qualification for Operational Coordination
Incident Management

| COMPONENT | TYPE 1 | TYPE 2 | TYPE 3 | NOTES |
|---------------------------------|--|---|---|--|
| EDUCATION | Not Specified | Not Specified | Not Specified | Not Specified |
| TRAINING | Same as Type 2 | Same as Type 3 | Completion of the following: 1. IS-100: Introduction to the Incident Command System, ICS-100 2. IS-200: Basic Incident Command System for Initial Response, ICS-200 3. ICS-300: Intermediate Incident Command System for Expanding Incidents 4. ICS-400: Advanced Incident Command System for Command and General Staff - Complex Incidents 5. IS-700: National Incident Management System, An Introduction 6. IS-800: National Response Framework, An Introduction 7. E/L 0954: National Incident Management System Incident Command System All-Hazards Safety Officer Course, or equivalent 8. United States Fire Administration (USFA) O-0305: Type 3 All-Hazards Incident Management Team (AHIMT) Introduction, or equivalent | 1. Identified equivalent trainings should meet or exceed course learning objectives. 2. The NIMS Training Program defines a national baseline to guide and promote NIMS training. It provides recommendations to assist Authorities Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) in developing their own training plans, tailored to their specific needs. |
| EXPERIENCE | Same as Type 2, PLUS: 1. Successful completion of the National Qualification System (NQS) Position Task Book (PTB) for the NIMS Type 1 Safety Officer, or equivalent AHJ documentation 2. Satisfactory performance as a NIMS Type 2 Safety Officer 3. Satisfactory performance as a division supervisor or group supervisor, or equivalent supervisory experience | Same as Type 3, PLUS: 1. Successful completion of the NQS PTB for the NIMS Type 2 Safety Officer, or equivalent AHJ documentation 2. Satisfactory performance as a NIMS Type 3 Safety Officer 3. Satisfactory performance as a strike team leader or task force leader, or equivalent supervisory experience | 1. Successful completion of the NQS PTB for the NIMS Type 3 Safety Officer, or equivalent AHJ documentation 2. Experience in incident management in a subordinate safety position | Not Specified |
| PHYSICAL/MEDICAL FITNESS | Same as Type 2 | Same as Type 3 | Moderate | The NIMS Guideline for the NQS defines Physical/Medical Fitness levels for NQS positions. |
| CURRENCY | Functions in this position during a qualifying incident, planned event, exercise, drill or simulation at least once every two years | Same as Type 2 | Functions in this position or a higher position during a qualifying incident, planned event, exercise, drill or simulation at least once every two years | A higher position is one for which this position is a prerequisite. |



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| COMPONENT | TYPE 1 | TYPE 2 | TYPE 3 | NOTES |
|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL LICENSES AND CERTIFICATIONS | Not Specified | Not Specified | Not Specified | Not Specified |

NOTES

1. Nationally typed resources represent the minimum criteria for the associated component and capability.
2. Additional training on this position is available from the National Wildfire Coordinating Group at <https://www.nwccg.gov/positions>.

REFERENCES

1. FEMA, NIMS 508: Incident Management Team
2. FEMA, NIMS 509: Incident Commander
3. FEMA, National Qualification System (NQS) Position Task Book for Safety Officer, latest edition adopted
4. FEMA, National Incident Management System (NIMS), October 2017
5. FEMA, NIMS Guideline for the NQS, November 2017
6. FEMA, NIMS Training Program, May 2020
7. FEMA, National Response Framework, October 2019
8. National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG), Position Catalog, latest edition published
9. United States Fire Administration (USFA), O-0305: All-Hazards Incident Management Team (AHIMT) Introduction, latest edition published